

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 274

Short Title: Amend Meherrin Tribe Name. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Jones.

Referred to: State & Local Government.

February 22, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE STATE-RECOGNIZED NAME OF THE MEHERRIN
2 TRIBE TO THE MEHERRIN-CHOWANOKE NATION, IN ORDER TO
3 RECOGNIZE THE HISTORIC MERGER OF MEMBERS OF THE
4 CHOWANOKE TRIBE INTO THE MEHERRIN COMMUNITY.
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 71A-7.1 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 71A-7.1. ~~Meherrin Tribe~~ Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation of North Carolina;**
9 **rights, privileges, immunities, obligations and duties.**

10 The Indians now residing in small communities in Hertford, Bertie, Gates, and
11 Northampton Counties, who in 1726 were granted reservational lands at the mouth of
12 the Meherrin River in the vicinity of present-day Parker's Ferry near Winton in Hertford
13 County, and who are of the same linguistic stock as the Cherokee, Tuscarora, and other
14 tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy of New York and Canada, shall, from and after July
15 20, 1971, be designated and officially recognized as the ~~Meherrin Tribe~~
16 Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation of North Carolina, and shall continue to enjoy all their
17 rights, privileges, and immunities as citizens of the State as now or hereafter provided
18 by law, and shall continue to be subject to all the obligations and duties of citizens
19 under the law."

20 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-210.1 reads as rewritten:

21 "**§ 115C-210.1. Membership – How appointed.**

22 The Council shall consist of 15 members, as follows:

23 ...

- 24 (5) Indian members of the Council shall be broadly representative of
25 North Carolina Indian tribes and organizations, specifically, the
26 Eastern Band of Cherokee, Lumbee, Coharie, Waccamaw-Siouan,
27 Haliwa Saponi, ~~Meherrin~~, Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation, Person
28 County Indians, Cumberland County Association for Indian People,
29 the Guilford Native American Association, the Metrolina Native

1 American Association, and any other Indian tribe gaining State
2 recognition in the future."

3 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 143B-407(a) reads as rewritten:

4 "(a) The State Commission of Indian Affairs shall consist of two persons
5 appointed by the General Assembly, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the
6 Director of the State Employment Security Commission, the Secretary of
7 Administration, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, the
8 Commissioner of Labor or their designees and 21 representatives of the Indian
9 community. These Indian members shall be selected by tribal or community consent
10 from the Indian groups that are recognized by the State of North Carolina and are
11 principally geographically located as follows: the Coharie of Sampson and Harnett
12 Counties; the Eastern Band of Cherokees; the Haliwa Saponi of Halifax, Warren, and
13 adjoining counties; the Lumbees of Robeson, Hoke and Scotland Counties; the
14 ~~Meherrin~~ Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation of Hertford County; the Waccamaw-Siouan
15 from Columbus and Bladen Counties; the Sappony; the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi
16 Nation of Alamance and Orange Counties, and the Native Americans located in
17 Cumberland, Guilford, Johnston, Mecklenburg, Orange, and Wake Counties. The
18 Coharie shall have two members; the Eastern Band of Cherokees, two; the Haliwa
19 Saponi, two; the Lumbees, three; the ~~Meherrin~~, Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation, one; the
20 Waccamaw-Siouan, two; the Sappony, one; the Cumberland County Association for
21 Indian People, two; the Guilford Native Americans, two; the Metrolina Native
22 Americans, two; the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, one, the Triangle Native
23 American Society, one. Of the two appointments made by the General Assembly, one
24 shall be made upon the recommendation of the Speaker, and one shall be made upon
25 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Appointments by the
26 General Assembly shall be made in accordance with G.S. 120-121 and vacancies shall
27 be filled in accordance with G.S. 120-122."

28 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.